

**STATE OF NORTH
CAROLINA

COUNTY OF STOKES**

)
)
)
)

**OFFICE OF THE
COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY
GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH
CAROLINA
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 12,
2019**

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met for a regular session in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Ronald Wilson Reagan Memorial Building (Administration Building) located in Danbury, North Carolina on Tuesday November 12, 2019 at 6:00 pm with the following members present:

Board of Commissioners Present: Chairman Andy Nickelston, Vice Chairman Jimmy Walker, Commissioner Rick Morris, and Commissioner Jamie Yontz

Absent: Commissioner Ronnie Mendenhall

County Administration Present: County Manager Jake Oakley, Assistant County Manager/Clerk to the Board Shannon Shaver, Finance Director Julia Edwards, and Attorney Nick Overby

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Nickelston called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners to order.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Yontz delivered the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Nickelston lead the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance and invited those in attendance to join.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Yontz moved to to approve the agenda as presented.

Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

Absent: Mendenhall

COMMENTS - Managers/Commissioners

Commissioner Morris welcomed those in attendance and those watching at home through YouTube and noted that he was glad to see so many people in attendance at the meeting tonight and that it is always good to see people interested in local government. He noted that if we had more public participation we would have a better local government. He also noted that he had an early meeting in

Greensboro tomorrow and would be a little delayed in getting his blog out.

Vice Chairman Walker welcomed those in attendance and those watching at home. He noted that it has been almost a year since his accident last year and how thankful he is to be here.

Commissioner Yontz welcomed those in attendance and those watching at home.

Chairman Nickelston welcomed those in attendance and those watching at home. He noted that Commissioner Mendenhall is out sick and asked that everyone keep him in their prayers.

County Manager Oakley welcomed those in attendance and those watching at home.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ellen Peric
1095 Wheeler Smith Road
Lawsonville, NC 27022

RE: Arts Update

Apple Gallery - November

The Stokes County Arts Council is featuring the Photography work of Shane Sargent at The Apple Gallery in Danbury.

Trivia Night – Nov 14th Thursday - 6:30 pm

Bring your family, bring your friends or make new friends at the Arts Place. Teams of 4-6 players will compete each month for prizes and the bragging rights until next time. **FREE** Thursday we're having chili with all the fixings and desserts – for a donation to our Scholarship Fund.

Barn Quilt Painting Class – Nov 17th 12:30 to 4:30 pm

Instructor Sarah Maddox guide you through the painting process, no prior painting experience is necessary. Light snacks will be provided. Registration includes all materials – Birchwood Quilt Square and paints.

2 x 2 barn quilt square \$65

3 x 3 barn quilt square \$95

Film Screening “Uncle Otto’s Truck” – Nov 20th

Wreak Havoc Productions and the Arts Place of Stokes is hosting a free screening of the Stephen King adaptation, "Uncle Otto's Truck" which was partly filmed in Danbury. Come join us and meet the filmmakers!

Dreams, Schemes and Time Machines – Fri Nov 22 and Sunday 24th

Join us at The Arts Place of Stokes for "Dreams, Schemes, and Time Machines." This musical theater showcase featuring local community members performing songs and scenes from classic Broadway shows like Newsies, Anastasia, Fiddler on the Roof, and more!

Tickets are \$10 general admission, \$7 for SCAC members, and \$5 for youth 18 and under.

Purchase online or over the phone at 336-593-8159. Showtimes: Friday, Nov. 22 at 7pm, Sunday, Nov. 24 at 3pm. See you there!

Soup in a Bowl – Nov 23rd 12 to 3pm

The 5th annual Stokes Soup in a Bowl is set for Saturday, November 23, 2019 at Hanging Rock State Park, 1790 Hanging Rock Park Road in Danbury from 12pm to 3pm.

For \$25 per person, attendees will choose their own handcrafted soup bowl, soup, beverage, and

dessert, with all proceeds being divided between the three outreach ministries.

Have a bowl from previous Soup in a Bowl events? Bring your 2014-2018 bowl to fill up and admission is just \$15! Price includes soup, beverage and dessert.

The event will take place rain or shine. Everyone attending is encourage to make a non-perishable food donation. Help us meet our goal of 2,000 lbs!

Advance tickets can be purchased online and at the Stokes County Arts Council, East Stokes Outreach Ministry, and King Outreach Ministry.

Tickets will also be available the day of the event as long as the bowls and soup last.

Wild Ponies – Creativity Workshop and Concert Saturday, November 23 2-4pm and 7:30pm

The creative duo Wild Ponies are bringing their talents to The Arts Place of Stokes! Join us from 2-4pm for a creativity workshop. We are all artists. We create every day. Whether it's through photography, painting, cooking, poetry, or songwriting each of us has a creative spark, that when nurtured, can produce beautiful moments in time! Stir up some of your own creative energy in this 2 hour workshop with Wild Ponies. You'll explore 5 useful tools and strategies to make creativity part of your everyday life. Registration in this workshop is \$25.

Saturday evening Wild Ponies hits the stage for a concert at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door.

Andy Stevens
157 Old Garner Road
King, NC 27021

RE: Second Amendment Sanctuary, ETJ, and Tax Increase

My original intention for tonight was to present to this Board of Commissioners a Draft Resolution for your consideration declaring Stokes County to be a Second Amendment Sanctuary County. Recent developments to our north in Virginia and closer to home, right here in Danbury itself make this a matter of importance and a critical necessity. I'll be addressing the Danbury issue at their next meeting in December, but I understand a Commissioner or two is/are preparing a similar draft resolution to present to the public in the near future. I'll not steal his/their thunder here tonight. I do hope we'll see unanimous support from this Board of Commissioners for such a resolution when presented. We need to demonstrate resolve and build a strong secure fence around our county that not only recognizes but protects the individual's right to keep and bear arms. I take delight in following the hunting exploits of our School Superintendent who has been taking time the past couple of months to teach his son how to hunt. Did you know his comments and activities might lead to his termination in some School Districts around us or his son suspended from school? I commend him publicly here tonight. We in Stokes County exercise, cherish, treasure, and pass down our rights and heritage.

That said, the troubling reaction to the sounds of freedom by elected officials in Danbury raises a new issue this Board needs to consider and correct. Years ago, municipalities could forcibly annex their residents. In preparation for doing so, Extra-Territorial Jurisdictions or ETJ's were created around municipalities so that they could dictate their rules and regulations upon the unwilling residents in the pipeline for annexation. These territories can extend a mile or more beyond current municipal limits and are contrary to representative government. In 2011, state statute corrected this injustice and involuntary annexations can no longer occur. However, the shackles of "regulation without representation" linger on. It is time to relieve those of us living within the three municipal ETJ's in Stokes from this regulatory bondage. Less government is always better government, and unlike some decisions, fixing this will not cost taxpayers a dime. Please take corrective action so affected owners can fully enjoy the fruits of their hard-earned possessions and revoke municipal ETJ authority in Stokes County.

Finally, speaking of money, there is no clear consensus on this Board regarding the necessity or

even purpose of a voluntary tax increase. Without a clear, concise, and unified message to present to voters, how can you expect a vote to raise taxes to succeed? Tax Friendly Mecklenburg County had a unified message, had supporters willing to spend millions promoting a similar increase, and yet lost the vote to a grass roots effort that clearly understood they "were taxed enough already". Early in this Board's tenure, a resolution was offered to create a fellow Commissioner Censure Policy. It received some discussion and, like the proposed tax increase, received no consensus of the Board and general dissatisfaction from the public. It was rightly tabled. Tonight, please repeat your action and table your resolution to present a tax increase referendum for voters to consider. After all, many of you ran on a platform proposing not to raise our taxes. I'll close tonight by asking this Board to do the right thing. Permanently table the Tax Increase Referendum and remain careful, frugal stewards of the taxpayer purse.
Thank You.

CONSENT AGENDA

All attachments presented on the Agenda are available in the attachments of the Agenda on the County Website and are available upon request from the Clerk, with the exception of the minutes approved which are located on the County Website under the minutes tab.

Minutes

Budget Amendments

2020 Meeting Calendar

County Employee Christmas Meal

Commissioner Morris moved to to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Yontz seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

Absent: Mendenhall

INFORMATION AGENDA

Chairman Nickelston noted that there were no items on the Information Agenda at tonight's meeting.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

Tax Administration Monthly Report

Tax Administrator Richard Brim presented the Board with information on the Tax Administration's Monthly Report with a request for the following items to be placed on the Consent Agenda at the next meeting:

Items for Approval on November 25, 2019.

1. Real and Personal Releases more than \$100.00.
2. Real and Personal Refunds more than \$100.00.
3. Late Application Disabled Veteran Exclusion.

4. Tax Office Power Point Presentation.

With no further discussion and full consensus of the Board, these items were placed on the Consent Agenda for the next meeting.

Propane Vehicles

Chairman Nickelston turned the floor over to Commissioner Morris and the representatives with Hall Oil to discuss propane vehicles and fueling.

After much discussion among the Board this item was placed back onto the Discussion Agenda for the next meeting on November 25th with a request for the County Manager and staff to bring back a proposal on the 8 vehicles that are not leased vehicles in the Sheriff's Department fleet on converting those vehicles and any additional information on the vehicles being converted that are leased through Enterprise.

(Chairman Nickelston called for a short recess at 7:05 pm)

(Chairman Nickelston called the meeting back to order at 7:19 pm)

Sales Tax Referendum

Chairman Nickelston turned the floor over to County Manager Oakley who provided information on the possibility of the sales tax referendum.

After much discussion among the Board the consensus of the Board was to move this item to the Action Agenda at the next meeting with draft resolutions to be presented for review.

ACTION AGENDA

LKC Engineering

Chairman Nickelston entertained a motion on the item presented.
Commissioner Morris moved to to approve LKC as the engineering firm to work on the water project in the Meadows Community.

Vice Chairman Walker seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

Absent: Mendenhall

Friends of Stokes Shelter- Funding Request

Leslie Staples with the Friends of Stokes Shelter presented the Board with updated information on projected operating expenses for the shelter.

Chairman Nickelston entertained a motion on the item presented.

After some discussion and due to Commissioner Mendenhall being absent at tonight's meeting the item was moved to the next meetings Action Agenda. Chairman Nickelston requested to review the F.O.S.S. financial records and to have a service agreement and budget amendment prepared at the

next meeting.

Stokes County Health Department -Annual Health Report and Vaccine Fee Schedule

Chairman Nickelston entertained a motion on the item presented and noted that there was a change on one item and that the copy of this has been provided to the Commissioners. The change is to the price of the Hepatitis A vaccine which changed from \$71.00 to \$95.00 due to an increase in vendor pricing.

Commissioner Yontz moved to to approve the Stokes County Health Department's Vaccine Fee Schedule.

Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

Absent: Mendenhall

PTRDC Appointment Request

Chairman Nickelston noted that Commissioner Rick Morris had been nominated to continue to serve on the PTRDC at the last meeting and opened the floor for any further nominations.

Vice Chairman Walker moved to close the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Yontz seconded.

Chairman Nickelston opened the floor for any discussion/questions/comments.

With no further discussion the motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Chairman Nickelston polled the Board:

Commissioner Morris- Morris
Vice Chairman Walker - Morris
Commissioner Yontz- Morris
Chairman Nickelston- Morris

Chairman Nickelston noted that Commissioner Rick Morris had been appointed to the PTRDC.

Absent: Commissioner Mendenhall

Finance options FY 19-20 Equipment Purchase

Chairman Nickelston entertained a motion on the item presented.

Commissioner Yontz moved to to approve the 19/20 finance options with First National Bank as recommended by Finance Director Julia Edwards and Support Services Supervisor Glenda Pruitt.

Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

Absent: Mendenhall

Animal Control Advisory Board - Revised Ordinance Request

Assistant County Manager/Clerk to the Board Shannon Shaver noted that due to some concerns from the Board on the wording of the revision, the Animal Control Advisory Board as well as the Sheriff are in agreement that the portion related to cats can be deleted from the ordinance.

Chairman Nickelston entertained a motion on the item presented.
Vice Chairman Walker moved to to approve the revised ordinance as presented with the deletion of cats from the wording.

Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. The motion Passed.
Absent: Mendenhall

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Nickelston entertained a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Morris moved to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Yontz seconded.

Chairman Nickelston opened the floor for discussion/questions/comments.

With no discussion the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 pm.

Absent: Mendenhall



Shannon Shaver
Clerk to the Board



Andy Nickelston
Chairman